

Vision 215 to help region thrive

Project aims to provide 'strategic blueprint'

By SARAH LOMAN
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The president of Northern Kentucky University, along with the faculty and staff, is trying to see into the future — 10 years into the future, to be precise.

Votruba has a strong faith in the ability of both the program and those working on it. "I wouldn't be spending the time that I'm spending on this planning process if I didn't believe that we can do it," he said. "The

work we're doing won't be easy. Frankly, planning our community's progress and shaping a vision for our future shouldn't be easy. If it were, we would surely be doing something wrong.

"Our biggest challenge will be to ensure that the progress over the next 10 years is as breathtaking as the past 25."

Vision 215 is divided into five teams that investigate the different ways that the Northern Kentucky region can improve and thrive. Each of the teams has at least one NKU faculty or staff member working on it.

Ken Jones, the chair of the theater department is a member of the Livable Community team. "We're looking at the region and seeing how to improve and incorporate NKU into the community," he said. "We're looking at everything from local politics, seminars and curriculum changes to help students, multiculturalism and

diversity — issues to improve the region."

Jones believes that NKU has always been a community-driven university. "From the day that it was conceived," he said. This is a very important project for NKU to be involved with, according to Jones, because "as the region grows, we have to grow with it," he said. "We have to know where the business and politics are going."

Rob Snyder, the executive director for the Metropolitan Educational and Training Services (METTS), agrees. "Dr. Votruba's position has always been that (NKU) needs to be embedded in the community," he said.

There are certain questions that need to be addressed when you're working for the community, though.

"What actions can we take between now and 2015 to enhance Northern Kentucky's competitiveness and thereby raise the standard of living for all residents of

See 2015, page 3

20 YEARS ON THE AIR



Maryanne Zelenik, news director of WNKU-FM, goes live on the air daily. Zelenik has been with WNKU since its inception 20 years ago.

Sarah Loman | Photographer

Program receives facelift

By CHRIS VANDEWATER
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Northern Kentucky University has changed its student orientation program for prospective freshmen looking to join the NKU community in the fall.

Formerly called Transitions, the student orientation program has been given a facelift, enabling students to receive more exposure to campus. For this reason, the new orientation program is being called Northern Exposure.

"It was changed because orientation can be used as a recruiting effort as well as a retention effort. We are still recruiting students to get them to register here," said Amy Arbino, assistant dean of students, student orientation and parent programs.

If their orientation is positive, it will retain those students and they will register for the fall.

"We have had some people decline the one-day session to attend the two-day session," Arbino said.

Of course, there are some people who do not want to spend the night during the two-day session, and those cases will be worked out on a one-to-one basis.

"We will talk with the student and try to get them to understand what it would mean to them if they did stay, but each case will be handled separately," Arbino said.

The students will be permitted to stay overnight in University Suites. Each student will have a roommate, but the housing arrangements have not fully been ironed out. For out-of-town parents needing a place to stay overnight, NKU has a list of hotels that welcome NKU guests with a reduced rate.

During the two days of Northern Exposure, prospective students and their parents will walk through a series of programs and lectures about NKU. "Parents want to be involved with the orientation

See ORIENTATION, page 2

WNKU approaches milestone

By SUSAN GOLDBERG
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For someone celebrating 20 years of broadcast history Maryanne Zelenik, the news director of WNKU-FM, is acting fairly calm.

"Plans to celebrate? Me personally? I don't know," Zelenik said. Even the thought of a night out in honor of the first day of broadcast on April 29, 1985 seems to surprise her.

"We've sort of been celebrating... with the fund drive, and people have been kind enough to write a lot of articles, talk about it and sort of put me down memory lane," Zelenik says.

Celebrating the upcoming broadcast anniversary through work fits Zelenik's style. She's devoted to her craft, and the awards and accolades she receives are a result of that commitment.

"I would say Maryanne's work ethic is second to none," said WNKU news reporter and producer Jay Hanselman. Hanselman has worked with Zelenik full time for the last 10 years.

"She will do whatever it takes to get an assignment done," Hanselman said. "If that means that she's here at 4:30 in the morning, and if there are times that she has to be here until five or six in the evening, she never complains about doing that."

News awards that she and

"(Zelenik) will do whatever it takes to get an assignment done."

Jay Hanselman, the station's program director, admits that the station has run out of room to display them all.

"Maryanne has all the qualities necessary to be an effective journalist — curiosity, a lot of enthusiasm

and a 'nose for news.'"

These same qualities have helped her forge a trusting relationship with the news staff at National Public Radio, who frequently call on Zelenik to cover local stories.

She marks the 1997 floods in Falmouth as her most memorable report.

"It was one of the most tragic, yet heartwarming stories that we've ever covered," Zelenik said. "I've never seen anything like that in my life."

She was struck by the devastation of the floods, but inspired by the way residents rebuilt their town and their lives.

Rick Pender, the arts and entertainment editor at Cincinnati CityBeat was the first general manager at WNKU. He hired Zelenik, then a 23-year-old Miami University

See ZELENIK, page 3

Students add to national Veterans History Project

By BRENT DONALDSON
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Northern Kentucky University graduate student Drew Perkins watched helplessly as his interview subject, a Vietnam Veteran, broke down in front of the camera. The vet, momentarily unable to continue with the interview, was digging deeply into his past, recounting the decades-old stories and harrowing accounts of war.

The veteran's stories had from a particular part of history that seethes with controversy, confusion and suffering. For Perkins, who did a four-year stint with the army's 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg, watching the veteran break down emotionally was heart-breaking. Yet just by conduct-

ing the interview, Perkins is a part of history in the making.

Signed into law on October 27, 2000, the U.S. Congress voted unanimously on legislation that created the Veterans History Project (VHP). Its goal, according to their official field kit, is to "collect and preserve stories of service, honor those who served and make it possible to learn about the past through first-hand accounts of men and women who lived through extraordinary times."

Over the course of the semester, numerous NKU graduate and undergraduate students and community members have dedicated themselves to the national project.

"Veterans History Project" is a misnomer in my opinion," said Dr. Jonathan Reynolds, associate professor of history at NKU and the project's senior advisor. "The project is about Americans who have experienced war in the 20th century, spouses of vets, people who were involved in wartime industry or people who became American citizens during wartime."

Funded by the U.S. Congress, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust, the VHP relies solely on volunteers from around the country to interview and record the veterans' testimony, and to compile and donate materials.

The basis for an NKU classic titled Directed Research in History, the VHP is "not just about collecting interviews."

It's really about how learning to undertake a project of this magnitude," said Reynolds.

Reynolds credits a dedicated and ambitious NKU history

major named Liz Comer for making the VHP part of the university curriculum.

In August 2004, after coming across a short article in her hometown newspaper, Comer introduced the concept of the VHP to the details, and Reynolds applied for and received official university approval to conduct the class.

"I like to think of myself as the figurehead who gives it academic legitimacy," Reynolds said. "It's very much a student run project."

The primary focus of the Veterans History Project (VHP) is on first-hand accounts of U.S. veterans from the following 20th-century wars:

- World War I (1914-1920)
- World War II (1939-1946)
- Korean War (1950-1955)
- Vietnam War (1961-1975)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

Veterans' experiences from additional conflict areas are "greatly valued and appreciated," according to the project's Web site.

For more information about the Veterans History Project, visit the Library of Congress Web site at <http://www.loc.gov/vhp/vhp/>. An official VHP field kit, containing advice and guidelines on interviewing veterans in addition to official interview release forms, can be obtained through the Web site or by calling (202) 707-1916, or by e-mailing vhp@loc.gov.

For more information about the Veterans History Project, contact the project through NKU, contact at (513) 972-9279, or e-mail trynn@nku.edu.

See VETERANS, page 3

Departments fuse into new college

By BRENT DONALDSON
 Reporter
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Northern Kentucky University is taking a big step toward helping its students stay ahead of the technology and communications curve.

Beginning with the fall semester, NKU will be combining the computer science, information science and communication departments into the new, integrated College of Computing, Information and Communications (CCIC).

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Gail Wells said now is the time to coordinate these creative, analytic and technical fields of study.

"There is a national move to try to combine these disciplines and expand the integrated media area," Wells said. "I think this will be an innovative college,

one that we hope will be ahead of the curve."

The CCIC hopes to develop and integrate a variety of cutting-edge programs, including digital media, mobile technologies, information security and cryptography, multi-media product design, journalism and content management, computer-assisted reporting and strategic technology analysis.

Under the tentative banner Institute for Information Innovation, the new college will house three departments: the department of computer science, the department of communication, the department of information systems.

According to Wells, the school will emphasize collaboration between departments — something that she said is lacking between programs within the current college of professional studies.

"There isn't a lot in common

between nursing and journalism," she said. "Looking at the needs of our regions, it appears that there is a real demand for synergy between computer science, information science and communication."

Wells hopes that a petition for a new building to house the CCIC will be approved in the budgeting process, but said that until then, class locations for each field of study will remain the same as they are now.

"Many details will be worked out next year," Wells said, "and innovations will be worked out in fall 2006, such as looking at what type of equipment to order for the lab and what courses would be appropriate."

"We are very excited about the prospects. We think that it will be a unique model, establishing NKU as a premier institute for study and research."

Orientation *Continued from page one*

program, so we have designed a program for the parents as well," Arbino said.

None of the times are finalized yet, but students will be able to learn about the university, get their All cards, receive their summer reading program book and receive a class T-shirt.

A campus carnival is scheduled for the first day of the program in which parents and students can have some fun on the plaza of the university center as well as having carnival-type food for lunch.

Along with the speakers for the orientation program, a handful of student leaders have been selected to help with orientation. After a long interview period, the orientation staff selected students who have good leadership skills and an extensive knowledge of the university.

"These students will act as RAs during the

overnight portion of the program as well as leading small group discussion," Arbino said.

Orientation is an important way to keep students informed and to help ease the transition between high school and college. Some of the goals of the new program are to promote student satisfaction and academic success, to reinforce the student's decision to attend NKU and to provide assistance and advising when registering for fall semester classes. Orientation is designed for students to meet new people and establish relationships before classes start. It is about getting freshmen acquainted with the campus and their surroundings.

"Freshmen students learn what professors expect from them at the college level," Arbino said.

policebeat

The following reports were filed with the Northern Kentucky University Police Department between April 19 and April 22.

Tuesday, April 19

3:05 a.m. Numerous items reported stolen from Norse Hall, under investigation.

2:52 p.m. Caleb Brooksdyke, 20, of Florence was found in possession of a forged parking pass and issued a Kentucky state citation for criminal possession of a forged instrument, third-degree.

3:16 p.m. Carissa Coyle, 31, of Ghent issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding.

4:31 p.m. Parking pass reported stolen from a vehicle that was parked in the Kenton Drive garage, under investigation.

5:00 p.m. Danielle Stegeman, 30, of Newport issued a Kentucky state citation for having an expired registration.

5:19 p.m. Several items reported stolen from the University Suites, under investigation.

8:22 p.m. Thomas Schuetz, 20, Cincinnati issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding.

8:50 p.m. Patricia Tucker, 21, of Cincinnati issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding.

Wednesday, April 20

12:21 p.m. Subject reported his parking pass was removed from his rental vehicle when returned to the dealership. Subject believes that the permit was thrown away at the dealership, and was referred to the Parking Office for a replacement.

12:26 p.m. Medical assistance requested for a subject at the Fine Arts building. The subject was transported to Veterans Hospital in Cincinnati for further evaluation and treatment.

Thursday, April 21

9:00 a.m. An Ohio License Plate was found at Nunn Drive and U.S. 27. The owner of the license was located and advised. The license plate was returned to the owner.

9:20 a.m. Parking pass reported stolen from a vehicle that was parked at lot B, under investigation.

11:29 a.m. Wallet reported stolen from

Albright Health Center, under investigation.

12:12 p.m. Subject reported that her vehicle had been struck while parked at lot G, by an unknown vehicle, under investigation.

1:07 p.m. William Lewis, 22, of Wilder issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding.

3:08 p.m. Hannah Powers, 22, of Covington issued a Kentucky state citation for having an expired registration.

3:28 p.m. Jessica McQueary, 23, of Covington issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding.

4:06 p.m. Jose Veloz, 37, of Bedford, Texas issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding.

6:36 p.m. Bennett Kraft, 22, of Cincinnati issued a Kentucky state citation for possession of marijuana.

6:36 p.m. Mallory Blair, 19, of Manitou issued a Kentucky state citation for possession of marijuana.

6:36 p.m. Stephen Daulton, 21, of Erlanger issued a Kentucky state citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

6:36 p.m. During an alcohol investigation, Michael Johnson, 20, of Burlington was arrested based on an outstanding warrant, transported and lodged in the Campbell County Jail. Johnson was also issued a Kentucky state citation for possession of alcohol by a minor.

Friday, April 22

12:47 p.m. Brandon Helm, 29, of Cincinnati issued a Kentucky state citation for having an expired registration.

3:49 p.m. Christine Chapeta, 26, of Dry Ridge issued a Kentucky state citation for speeding and for having no registration.

4:48 p.m. Cathy Franklin, 33, of Highland Heights issued a Kentucky state citation for having an expired registration and no insurance.

7:23 p.m. Brooke Mullins, 19, of Erlanger issued a Kentucky state citation for having an expired registration.

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 Follow until the end. Apply in Recruiting Office.

Applications are computerized
 Women and minorities are encouraged to join the team

Graduation Guide

34th Commencement Exercises Saturday, May 7, 2005 at 10 a.m. U.S. Bank Arena

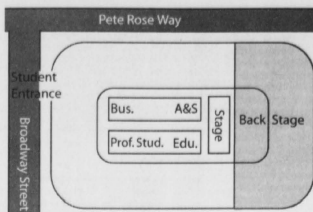
- **Graduates** must arrive at the U.S. Bank Arena no later than 8:30 a.m. Enter the arena via the street-level doors off Broadway.
- Each graduate should obtain a name card that indicates seating according to college and degree at designated tables in the assembly area.
- All personal belongings should be left with guests.
- **Guests** should enter at the Concourse level gates.
- Tickets are not necessary for commencement. Seating is available on a first-come-first-served basis.
- The ceremony begins promptly at 10 a.m.

- **Photographs** will be taken by a professional from Chappell Studios during the ceremony.
- Guests may take photos at a special section near the stage.

- **Academic apparel** must be purchased by each graduate at the NKU Bookstore by May 6.
- Undergraduate students graduating with honors will receive a cord to wear with the apparel. Cords can be picked up prior to May 6 or at commencement.
- Master's degree candidates must have the appropriate hood for the degree.

- **Diplomas** will be mailed to graduates after May 27.
- Graduates are asked to verify their permanent mailing addresses listed on Norse Express.

Information compiled from NKU's Web site at www.nku.edu and the U.S. Bank Arena site at www.usbankarena.com



Directions to U.S. Bank Arena

U.S. Bank Arena is located on the Ohio River next to the Great American Ballpark.

From I-75 South:
Take the Second Street exit. Stay in the right lane and follow Second Street until it ends at Pete Rose Way, right in front of U.S. Bank Arena. Option 2 (Once Mehlman Way Re-Opens in Feb. 2003): Take the Freeman Avenue exit. Freeman Avenue ends at Mehlman Way. Go left on Mehlman Way. U.S. Bank Arena is on the left, after passing Felt Brown Stadium and Chirney Field.

From I-71 North:
Follow Gilbert Avenue exit. Turn right at light by bus station onto E Court Street. Turn left onto Reedy Street, the first street on left. Turn left at light onto Eggleston Avenue. Follow Eggleston until it ends at Pete Rose Way, turn right at light. Follow Pete Rose Way and U.S. Bank Arena will be on your left.

From I-71 North:
Take the Second Street exit. Stay in the right lane and follow Second Street until it ends at Pete Rose Way, right in front of U.S. Bank Arena.

From I-471 North:
Stay in right lane across bridge. Follow North I-75/West US 50 exit. Stay right and exit on 3rd Street. Turn left at first light onto Broadway. U.S. Bank Arena is at the corner of Broadway and Pete Rose Way.

Master of Arts in School Counseling

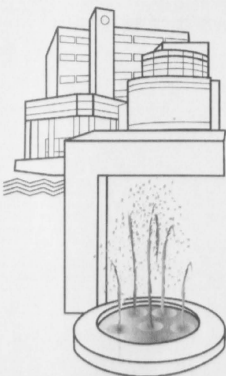
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The Master of Arts in School Counseling is a certificate degree renewal program designed to give school counselors the required coursework and experiences for initial or provisional certification.*

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For more information, call 859-572-5237

NKU NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
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<http://graduateschool.nku.edu>

*The regulations for school counseling have been recently amended to allow applicants without a teaching certificate to apply for the program and earn certification. Applicants without certification are asked to contact the College of Education Graduate Office at 859-572-5237 for further information.

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Students must be in good standing with the university and be a student for the entire 2005-2006 school year. Pick up applications outside LA 515 or contact Faculty Advisor Andrew Miller at millera@nku.edu.

Application Deadline is April 29.

IMPORTANT COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION FOR GRADUATES

Due to a 1:00 p.m. Cincinnati Reds baseball game on Saturday, May 7, the East Garage, located adjacent to U.S. Bank Arena, will not be available for parking at Commencement.



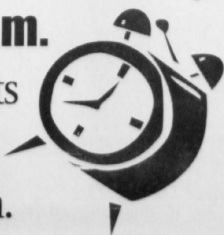
You are encouraged to use the **Western-Southern Garage**, located one block north of the arena, or any open air lots that may be available along Pete Rose Way.



There will also be shuttle buses, courtesy of TANK, that will provide continuous service from the NKU

Welcome Center to U.S. Bank Arena beginning at 8:30 a.m. with the last return trip leaving the arena at 12:30 p.m. The ceremony will begin promptly at **10:00 a.m.**

so make sure you and your guests allow adequate travel time to the arena.



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viewpoints



Wayne Stayskal / KRT Campus

Make good use of summer

Semesters always seem to fly by quickly. They seem to go by quicker and quicker each time. With another passing school year comes the summer break. We have always had summer breaks since kindergarten, but summer break in college is especially nice. You have the freedom of being an adult and a lot of leisure time. This is a great power that you only have a few times in your life. Take advantage of it.

Some people want to work all summer long. Get a job and

make lots of money. I tried that one summer. I worked at Great American Insurance downtown. I remember that day. The great college road trip is always a fun summer time activity. Getting a few friends together and hitting the road to go to a concert or a weekend camping trip. While on the road, you form a mountain of Burger King bags, and you find out who has the worst body smells imaginable. It doesn't matter who you bring with you, odor has a way of sneaking up

on you. You could have an elegant runway model in the back seat of your car, but after three hours on the highway, you would have to roll down the windows and shriek, "Claudia, what did you eat? You smell like a desert outsource." Riding on long road trips isn't all about bad smells. You can play fun games along the way as well. Games such as Name that song on the radio, Truth or Dare, or my favorite, "Who is that touching me?" These are all great games to help pass the time.

For those of you who don't feel like going far away from home, there are still fun activities to do while in town. Try

going to see a movie at your local drive-in theater. Take a date out for an evening under the stars, how romantic. Of course, you could do what I do, get drunk out of your mind and end up throwing up in front of the Smith family, and ruining their family night out. Either way, you will be putting a smile on someone's face.

What is summer with no pool party/cookout? Get your friends together, and enjoy an afternoon in the sun. I remember last Fourth of July when my buddies and I threw a party at our place. All of our friends came out and we had a great time, shooting off fireworks and drinking beers. We later

found out that those two items don't belong together. I know Four-Toed Willie won't soon forget.

It has been a great school year, Norse. I really enjoyed talking to anyone who read my articles. It was much appreciated, and hopefully I made you laugh. Whether you are graduating or have a few more years to go, have fun this summer and the best of luck to you. Thanks a lot Norse, and study and vacation with caution.

Matt Stanton is a junior liberal arts major at NKU and a stand-up comedian. You can contact Matt at stantonm@nku.edu.

Filibuster important to minority

For those who have been following the nomination and approval of the judges by President Bush and Congress, they will see it's at a standstill. This is because the Democrats are using a filibuster.

A filibuster is a device used in the Senate to delay or prevent a vote on the time-consuming task, it can be stopped only by a super majority

60-member vote of the senators that are present and voting. Filibustering has of course stopped the voting on the judges, thus keeping them from being appointed. The Republicans, as of late, have been talking about changing the rule so that it's a simple majority to end it. Normally, I agree with most of what the Republicans do, but not this time.

A filibuster is a good way for the party out of power, i.e. the Republicans until 1994, to get concessions from the other party. Without it there is a lack of checks and the majority can run rampant with approvals. Tyranny in government is something that Americans don't like and certainly not when it's happening in their own government.

I know Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist is frustrated with the "activist judges," as are many in this country, but that doesn't justify such a dan-

gerous change in politics. The Republicans will not always be in power; what will Frist do then? The party out of power is more powerless without the filibuster and although other ways to stall a vote exist, none is nearly as effective.

Why don't the Republicans take it to the people? If Bush really has a mandate, then he should have no problem getting support for his judges. Maybe the Senate could consider a compromise of some sort. Perhaps the senators can appeal to the constituents for support.

I don't know what the answer is. The only thing I do know is that they should not do away with the filibuster.

Perhaps if the Republicans started playing hardball instead of teat-ball, they wouldn't be being pushed around by a minority in Congress.

Steve Finaro is a senior history major and a member of the College Republicans at NKU. You can contact Steve at SFinaro@gmail.com.

Drivers need to be more considerate

There is something that has been on my mind and until now I was afraid to talk about it. I was afraid of the stigma attached to voicing an opinion. I had become a brain-dead, mindless robot afraid to rock the boat. I lived in fear of the politically correct crowd chastising me from here to eternity. I am not afraid anymore. Get ready to take notes cause here I go. We need tougher restrictions on obtaining a driver's license. If you have driven lately, you know exactly what I'm talking about.

There is no way half the people on the road passed a driving test. We need harsher penalties for violations. I'm talking about courtesy violations like driving in the left lane continuously

without passing. Kentucky state law states that it is illegal to remain in the left lane without passing. I was thinking we should bring back the stockades as punishment. I know it would be humiliating to the person and that's the point. The American Civil Liberties Union would be appalled at the mere suggestion. But it might work! People who are so self-absorbed that they're oblivious to everyone on the road need a little humility.

The roads would be safer and easier to navigate, and road rage would be severely curbed. I know you think I went over the deep end. Maybe my travel time has taken its toll on me and affected my judgment. How many times have you been late for school because some driver has the passing lane blocked? They're just cruising along at 40 miles an hour with no place to go, unaware that automobiles have a rear-view

mirror. If they took a quick glance every 10 minutes they could learn a lesson. The two miles of traffic pulling up behind them is not because they won the popularity contest and everyone wants to follow them. They cause many accidents and when they're oblivious to the whole situation. They even hesitate the nerve to question the driving skills of the people that pass them.

These scoff-laws must be stopped. We must share the roads and not allow such contemptuous violations to occur. We must take a stand. The safety and safety of a whole generation of drivers depend on it. The stockade would be the perfect tool to teach them to be courteous of other drivers.

The Kentucky State Drivers Manual states that the right lane is for slower traffic and the left lane is for passing. This is not a difficult concept; it is not

rocket science and yet people cannot comprehend it. It is a privilege to drive, not a right. If we cannot place them in a stockade, how about suspending their license for 30 days. Taking the bus will teach them a lesson and will accommodate their already slow pace. Perhaps we can make them wear signs that indicate they are selfish and not considerate of others. They would probably be oblivious of the sign and continue to wander aimlessly to their destination.

While I'm in my pulpit let's talk about cutting in front of a truck and slowing down. Do I need to mention that these trucks can weigh up to 40 tons? Unless you're trying to commit suicide by being crushed, I would refrain from such a stupid human trick. MTV's "Jackass" has been cancelled and is not coming back. You might however be the highlight

of the evening news. Merge means to blend in with existing traffic. Never enter a highway at 40 miles per hour when traffic is doing 55 miles per hour. Variations in speed are the cause of accidents. Yield means to give the right of way to existing traffic. They do not have to stop or slow down for you, you must enter only when it is clear.

By now most people have figured out I am only being facetious. However, I am serious when I state that people who drive without being aware of other drivers are arrogant. The roads are for everyone, not just you. If you are driving at 40 miles to the right and allow traffic to pass you on the left. But it would be cool to bring back the use of the stockade or people wearing signs for not being considerate of others. Well, maybe someday.

The views expressed on the Viewpoints page do not necessarily represent the views of The Northernner, its editors or its writers. The individual articles express those of the authors. The Northernner and its staff respect the right to a free and open dialogue as allowed under the First Amendment.

The staff editorial reflects the views and opinions of The Northernner staff. Staff editorials are written by a senior staff member. Topics are determined weekly by a majority vote among the editorial board, which is composed of all section editors, assistant editors and senior staff members.

Letter to the editor

Being accused does not equal being guilty

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to Kevin Malay's assumptions on the Michael Powell issue. I know that the U.S. Constitution has given people the right to speak, or in this case, write their opinions about anything they want. But what happens when that right is abused to the extent of attacking someone they only been accused of a crime? Being accused doesn't always translate to guilt.

Just look at Josh Blair's arti-

cle on April 20, "Powell not indicted on rape charge." It states the grand jury decided not to indict Mr. Powell because they felt that he wasn't capable with his physical stature. Now what does that mean?

Before you get all upset Malay, I have proof to my claim. Just go back to your article on March 23, "Accused should face expulsion." Malay says that "A student charged with rape is a menace to society and ought to be expelled and put behind bars." Why

should Powell be considered a menace to society when it's just been accused of a crime? Remember from the March 30 article, "Article accused, justified." Malay writes that a "young girl was allegedly raped, not a young man was raped." Mr. Malay, how can you so willingly call Powell a menace to society when you don't even know if he raped this woman or not?

Another example comes from Malay's article on April 6, "Students perceive false injustice." You give the impression that "we all know, though, that being found not guilty doesn't mean someone is innocent."

Let me ask you something: who gave you the right to come to a decision whether or not someone is guilty outside of court? I know that our justice system is not perfect. People that were guilty have walked, while people that were innocent have been in the chair or gas chamber. However, this does not give you the right to slander someone's image because they're accused.

Although Powell has not been indicted on the rape charge, his image has been deeply affected by just his association. Unfortunately, how can it not be? According to the article, Powell is still sus-

pended from university housing. He will forever have that rape accusation hovering over his shoulder. When he goes looking for a career in the future, do you think that the rape charge will play a factor in whether or not he gets hired? In a perfect world that wouldn't happen because he was acquitted of the charge. But in reality, employers may look at it and think "maybe" or "it's possible." That is the image that Michael Powell is going to have to live with for the rest of his life.

Nick Strub

Third-year student, accounting

npr norse poll responses

Compiled by Nicole Jones

What campus improvement do you think would be most beneficial in the fall?



Heather Buckner
Freshman, education

"I think a football team to bring in more money for the school and draw attention for potential students."



Daniel Thomas
Junior, ITES

"More diversity programs because that would allow people to learn about different cultures."



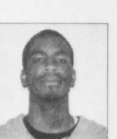
Samantha Westering
Senior, RTV

"I think there should be a track and soccer field. Athletic teams deserve a good place to run."



T.J. Western
Junior, psychology

"I think they should have healthier food choices in LC because the food sucks and makes me sick."



Wahlid Lewis
Freshman, theatre

"I think more money towards student for tuition and books instead of garages and lakes. This will be more beneficial."



Chris Long
Junior, RTV

"More changes up the laundry room. I don't think the campus is too bad."

editorialboard

Time nears for final farewell

With graduation rapidly approaching, most seniors think about what lies ahead for them in the future. While I, too, am anxious to see what the future holds, I can't help but reflect on my four years spent at Northern Kentucky University.

The term "finals" has taken on a very literal meaning now. I'm turning in the last homework I'll ever have to do. I'm studying for my last final exams ever. I'm putting to bed my final edition of The



EMILY CHALANT
Editor in Chief
ehalant@nku.edu

Northernner as Editor in Chief.

I have mixed emotions when I take all of this into consideration. First comes an immense sigh of relief, the craziness and stress is temporarily coming to an end. Then there's a brief moment of panic; my entire routine is about to drastically change. For four years I've lived in the comfort of being able to make my own schedule, and my biggest concern was making sure The Northernner was sent

to the printer before deadline. After graduation comes "Real world." I'll be the small fish in the big pond all over again.

But the emotion I overwhelmingly feel is pure happiness. I am happy with the path NKU has led me down and the direction it is giving to my future. The friends I have met along the way have brought me nothing but joy. I am happy that The Northernner continues to grow and improve and that I was able to make any contribution to it. And I am happy that the education, experiences and relationships I have gained make me feel confident and

prepared for anything the future holds.

Soon I'll have to pack up my desk and leave the office that has become a second home and the people that have become my second family. I can only hope that they've learned as much from me as I have from them. I would wish for them less Student Government Association drama, but where's the fun in that? SGAs has been only one source of news—both good and bad—this past semester. We've covered Gov. Ernie Fletcher's many visits to campus, the announcement of a naming rights agreement for the Bank

of Kentucky Center, the events of numerous campus organizations, the accomplishments of Norse athletes and the quest for Division I, to name a few. Our own coverage has even become news, but controversy only spawns discussion and communication.

So here's my final thank you. Thanks to the campus for giving us plenty to discuss. Thanks to all my professors who have taught me how to report what needs to be discussed. And thanks to all of my friends who have made this entire journey worthwhile.

College years a great experience

And now, the end is near.

And so I face the final curtain.

My apologies to Of Blue Eyes, but I find it difficult to do an end-of-my-college-career article without repeating the lyrics to "My Way" in their entirety.

If this were a high school valedictorian speech, I'd probably start it off with "Webster's dictionary defines such and such as..." but I'll try to not be too cliché.

Let me just say that I'm proud to be receiving a diploma that will have "Northern



JOSH BLAIR
AAE Editor
blairj@nku.edu

Kentucky University" printed on it.

No longer do the monikers of a fall-back school, a last option or the dreaded No. Knowledge College attach themselves to NKU.

No, instead, NKU has grown to be a leading institution not only in the region and state, but also the country. A degree from NKU will surely enable me to pursue my dreams. Listen to me getting all sappy. I'll give you a moment to pause and dry your eyes.

Having been founded in

1968, I view NKU as a youngest sibling. It has grown up the fastest because it had to. In order to prove itself and to garner the recognition that I envy those who have and will come after me. They are going to experience a lot of exciting changes.

My four years at NKU have been a wonderful experience and I hope to one day come back and teach here so I can give back to the university that's given so much to me.

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you know when I hit off more than I could chew.

But through it all, when there was doubt, I ate it up and spit it out.

When I started in 2001, Not only has it increased by about 4,000 students but it has also gained many wonderful faculty members, programs and facilities.

In four years from now, NKU isn't the same as it was when I started in 2001.

Not only has it increased by about 4,000 students but it has also gained many wonderful faculty members, programs and facilities.

In four years from now,

I faced it all and I stood tall.

And did it my way.

I was going to make this article more humorous, but I don't want anything to come back and haunt me one time out of now when I run for office.

Thank you to all that have made NKU such a great experience for me, and I wish the best of luck to everyone out there in whatever they choose to do.

For what is a man, what has he got?

If not himself, then he has naught.

To say the things he truly feels; And not the words of one who kneels.

The record shows I took the blows -

And did it my way!

editorialnote

University deserves vast improvements

BY NATE THAMMAN

Contributor
nthamman@nku.edu

The overall advising at Northern Kentucky University is something the university should be ashamed of. Although I was lucky enough to become well acquainted with one of my professors who has done a decent job of advising me, the overall advising services at Northern are utterly terrible. My adviser during my first two years at NKU was little more than a joke. In fact, when I switched majors out of his department, he became visibly and verbally upset with me

because when he asked me why I was switching out of computer science (his personal career choice/expertise), I replied that I really just didn't like it. This was apparently not satisfactory to him.

Not only have I seen advising errors first hand, but in my six years at Northern, I have also heard hundreds, if not literally many hundreds, of complaints and horror stories about NKU advising from friends and relatives, especially since all three of my siblings are attending or have attended the university.

Furthermore, I have seen tuition increase by some \$1000 in the last six years, while

things like parking at the university have remained substantially flat at best. I've seen the parking garage next to the Business, Education, Psychology and Applied Science and Technology buildings be constructed, only to sit half-full on countless days because NKU charges a decent fee for parking (in its top of the required and overpriced yearly parking permit), and then the university built another parking garage. That is decision-making at its best (please note my sarcasm).

Money has also been poured into athletics and extracurricular clubs and activities, while I have seen little to no improvement to the overall quality of

education at NKU. I realize that some increase in tuition costs are inevitable, but I feel that the bulk of my tuition payments have been nothing short of a waste.

My choice to attend NKU was solely on the basis that it was a quality, "value education" in comparison to other state universities like the University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University. Among friends, family and acquaintances, costs seem to be a common theme. However, following all of the tuition hikes, NKU no longer holds the "bargain degree" title in

Kentucky. In fact, it costs nearly \$300 more per semester than ECU, and only \$398 less than Kentucky's most expensive college, UK. Frankly, had I the decision to make over again, I would have gone to UK or Louisville like the rest of my high school buddies who decided that their educations were worth the extra cash.

All of that aside, I wish the university the best of luck in its hopes to improve its athletic standing to NCAA Division I. I only hope that the quality of education might catch up.

Might I also add, sorry, but I won't see you at the commencement ceremonies.

Recurring athletic injuries can be prevented

BY MELISSA PITTMAN

Contributor
northner@nku.edu

As a student at Northern Kentucky University, I would like to inform all student athletes about the recent increase in student athlete injuries. I played volleyball for six years in high school and went through two comprehensive shoulder surgeries, therefore making me unable to participate in any sports at Northern. I

am not going to blame anyone in particular for my injuries. I would just like to make you aware of the risks and try to find a reason why these injuries are happening.

According to Dr. Suken Shah, a doctor with KVC Health, there have been 775,000 sports-related injuries in youth sports since 2000, with over a quarter of them being serious. So why are these injuries happening? The main reason is overuse. As kids, we

are being pushed more and more to play multiple sports. If a child does obtain an injury, their body has no time to heal before the child is re-entered into the sport. This injury tends to follow the child through high school and even into college.

The problem is even more serious when an injury occurs in high school or college level sports because the sports are so much more competitive. With overuse of muscles, athletes tend to have recurring

injuries. The re-injuries tend to occur when the athlete does not allow enough time to heal. This is somewhat related to overuse and lack of rest for competitive athletes. In my case, I had surgery in December of 2000 and was playing volleyball again in February with my physical therapist. Then before I knew it, after two years of varsity volleyball and little conditioning, I was having surgery again.

So what can you do as an

athlete to keep this problem from happening to you? My best advice is not to "play through the pain." If you are hurt in a sport, be it intramural or Division II, do not think that the injury will simply go away if you ignore it. Doing this will only make it harder on you and make it harder for your body to heal. I am in no way trying to tell you to avoid competitive sports, but I am only trying to prevent what happened to me from happening to you.



Chris Long
Junior, RTV

"More changes up the laundry room. I don't think the campus is too bad."

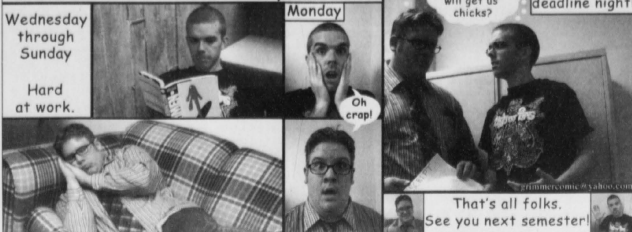
gamesextra

Section Editor
Emily Chalfant
859.572.6128

GRIMMER

by Ricky Glore and Josh Blair

How a Grimmer comic strip is made:



The Fellas

by Alex Campbell



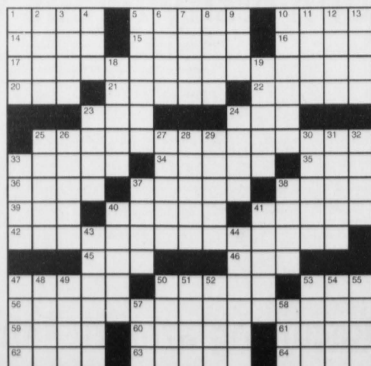
crossword

"The Daily Crossword" Edited by Wayne Robert Williams (KRT)

- ACROSS
- 1 Entreaty
 - 5 Hindu teacher
 - 10 Crooned
 - 14 Korea/China border river
 - 15 "___ of Athens"
 - 16 Zeno of
 - 17 Take a big chance
 - 20 Nice summer?
 - 21 Deputy
 - 22 Countertenors
 - 23 Upper limb
 - 24 Three in Trieste
 - 25 Take a big chance
 - 33 H.S. dances
 - 34 Meera and Bancroft
 - 35 Bagel topper
 - 36 Dumbo's wings
 - 37 Gather gradually
 - 38 Pierre's father
 - 39 Perform
 - 40 Rude ones
 - 41 1st letters
 - 42 Take a big chance
 - 45 Aged
 - 46 Church sister
 - 47 Shortland, in short

- Down
- 1 Combustible pile
 - 2 Cafe au ___
 - 3 Word in a threat
 - 4 Arctic seabird
 - 5 Mark of infamy
 - 6 Marriage partner
 - 7 Prayer closer
 - 8 Ring around a fortress
 - 9 Traveler's stop
 - 10 Merchant
 - 11 Stepped down
 - 12 "Finding ___" (2003 animated hit)
 - 13 Chatters
 - 18 Capers
 - 19 Pub game
 - 23 Donations for the
 - 24 Subsequently
 - 25 Destruction
 - 26 Principal artery
 - 27 Eagle's claw
 - 28 Like some gases
 - 29 Grind, as one's teeth
 - 30 Derived from oil
 - 31 ___cochere (sheltered entrance)
 - 32 Alimony recipients
 - 33 Little legumes
 - 37 Well-behaved
 - 38 Nabokov novel
 - 40 Under
 - 41 North Slope dweller

THIS WEEK'S SOLUTION



- 43 South China Sea gulf
44 Sense
47 Trade
48 Musical sound
49 Art Deco artist
50 Sch. groups
51 Sailor's call
52 Eternal City
53 About
54 Las Vegas light
- 55 Color-ma's comment
57 Actress Claire
58 To the point

classifieds

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Students link to thousands across nation

By Amy Ehrenreiter
Features Editor
ehrenreiter@nku.edu

It's free, it's easy and it's attracting college students from across the nation. It's Thefacebook.

Thefacebook is an online directory that connects people through social networks at colleges and universities, according to the Web site at www.thefacebook.com.

"I'm pretty much [addicted]," Jessie Smith, senior theater major, said. "It's a good way to keep up with friends from school, friends from high school and people I've been out of touch with for years."

Once a member, the Web site allows each person one page for profile information such as their basic information (name, e-mail, gender, major, graduation year) and extended information (political views, clubs and jobs as well as a list of favorites).

Thefacebook links each member to other members with the same interests, schools, majors, clubs and jobs by filling in the different sections in a profile. If a person wants to search the database, they can by high school, college and groups – which can be compared to clubs within the site.

Thefacebook currently has about 250 groups within its site. "David Letterman for President '08," "Fire alarm pullers are not neat" and "Friends don't let friends pop collars," are just a few different groups members can join.

Different organizations within Northern Kentucky University have also created groups for their members, such as fraternities, sororities, Presidential Ambassadors, Residential Housing Association and more. No matter what a person is interested in, a group has been made – or can be created – for it.

Along with profiles and groups, Thefacebook also allows its members to upload an image of their choice, typically of themselves, to be displayed on their page.

Creating a profile is only scratching the surface of what this Web site has to offer. This Web site is used primarily to keep in contact with students from NKU and other schools.

With Thefacebook featuring approximately 577 different schools from across the country, students are able to make connections they may never have before.

"It's kind of a fun way to keep connected with people," Smith said. "One of my friends found her best friend from kindergarten (on Thefacebook) yesterday."

Smith is one of many NKU students that are members of a group called "I probably should be studying, but I'm on Facebook instead." Smith said she logs on to Thefacebook "at least five or six times a day."

Each member has a space on their profile page displaying their friends from NKU as well as ones from other schools. Along with joining groups, members can add other members they know, want to know or have common interests with as friends.

Although Thefacebook was created Feb. 4, 2004, by Mark Zuckerberg, many schools were not on the Web site. It wasn't until the recent addition of several schools that NKU was added to the site. The schools are not affiliated with Thefacebook, but rather the students that attend them are able to have their school added to the site.

To get a school added, students e-mail the site. Once enough students have requested their school to be added, the school is added to Thefacebook.

Since the addition of NKU, new students create profiles every day. Sarah King, freshman biology major, joined about a week ago.

"I have several friends that are scattered throughout different colleges and a friend from UK asked me to join to keep in contact with me," King said. "Even though you can use (messenger services), it's a different way to communicate with our friends – it's just a new way of (instant messaging) each other."

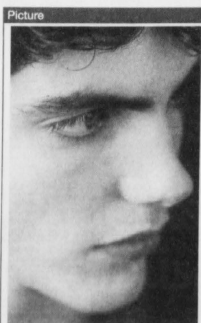
Chris Robinson, a sophomore sports business major, joined Thefacebook for the same reason. "A couple of people at school told me about it, and I decided to (join)," he said.

For some people, the Web site could be addictive, he said. But Robinson likes the site because he meets "a lot of people (he) normally wouldn't," he said. "I may see a person on campus and I may never talk to them, but they may talk to me on facebook – which is really weird but it happens."

He thinks the popularity of the Web site at NKU is "just starting to catch on."

Scott Hiltbran, a sophomore history major, has been a member of the Web site for a couple of weeks now. Due to its increasing popularity, in the little time he has been involved with it, he has more than 100 friends, he said.

Smith said she has about 30 friends at NKU, but more than 100 total from other schools. She said, "Right now, it's really addicting to see who's adding on from NKU each day."



Send Jimmy a Message
Poke Him!

Connection
You are friends with Jimmy

Mutual Friends
You have 12 friends in common with Jimmy

Access
Jimmy is logged in from Norse

Other Schools
Jimmy has friends at...
• Kentucky (1)
• MU Ohio (9)
• Ohio State (27)
• UF (1)
• VA Tech (3)

Information

Account Info:
Name: Jimmy Vee
Member Since: April 26, 2005
Last Update: April 26, 2005

Basic Info:
Email: veej@nku.edu
Status: Student
Sex: Male
Year: 2007
Concentration: University Studies
Residence: University Suites
Birthday: 03/09/84
High School: Wakefield High School

Extended Info:
Screen name: BattFoone1968
Relationship Status: In a Relationship
Political Views: Moderate
Interests: Eating at Applebee's, giving speeches
Clubs and Jobs: Sports editor spring 2004, staff writer Rap

Favorites:
Favorite Music: "On the Road" by Jack Kerouac
Favorite Movies: Gump, Spanish
Favorite Quote: "Live long and prosper" – Star Trek
About me: Although I'm a pretty serious guy, I like to have fun.

Groups
Added to the O.C. • I wish StrongBad would answer my emails Looking for a parking spot on campus is like a sport • Babies of the '80s Full House Rocks! • I prob should be studying but I'm on facebook instead

Jimmy's Wall
Jimmy! You da man! -Charlie

Man, where were you at last weekend?
Ashley was asking for you! -Alex

Confessions of a Facebook addict

By Stuart MacKenzie
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor
bighustmac18@hotmail.com

Let's get one thing straight: I am not one of those freaks who spend all day on AOL Instant Messenger, myspace or on a live journal. I don't have a Web site or a guestbook, and I don't blog. But I admit it, my name is Stuart MacKenzie and I, along with thousands of other students across the United States, am a facebook addict.

It started innocently enough. As with most addictions, it began with whispered rumors and peer pressure. Friends from bigger colleges such as the University of Cincinnati bragged about racking up legions of friends and going to wild parties posted on Thefacebook. I grew jealous. I wanted to know more.

What can I say, I was curious. I knew I wanted to experiment with facebook-ing but I didn't have a hook-up. Facebook-madness hadn't hit Northern Kentucky University yet.

And then it came – that fateful day when I checked my inbox and received an e-mail from a "trusted" friend: "You have been invited to join the Collegefacebook."

Ahh, the Collegefacebook – my gateway drug. With a much smaller number of people and just as cool options as the real facebook, I thought I was safe. I would make a profile, post a few pictures and be finished. Soon, after building up an army of NKU friends, I realized it wasn't enough. I wanted more. I needed more.

I soon shared my addiction with all my roommates and friends. The topic of conversation soon became, "Hey, have you seen Ashley's new picture?" or "check out my new quote," instead of "How 'bout them Bengals?" or "What do you think are the best ways to solve our problems in the Middle East?" I even e-mailed my friend Alex who has been in Germany all year. It was so euphoric; I felt like Thefacebook's Timothy Leary. I had to spread the word to the people, all the people.

But as my addiction grew, I began to crave a stronger fix. The day soon came when my friend requests started to dwindle. NKU's student body had exhausted all possible connections. I was tired of checking Collegefacebook.

I signed onto the Collegefacebook less and less. I started eating and going to class again. I thought I might actually have time to study and pay my car insurance.

Then it hit. Like a tidal wave of procrastination upon an already lethargic student, it hit. I couldn't believe it, just when I thought I was out, NKU is on the real facebook.

Gone are the days of Collegefacebook. We are on "Thefacebook," the coolest Web site, the link to other colleges, real colleges, universities even! Better yet, we have the gateway to thousands upon thousands of college co-eds!

That's when a dark period in my life occurred. It's painful to say, but that's when I began to facebook binge. At first, a three-day facebook binge wasn't a big deal. Who hasn't start-

ed two groups and looked up all his high school buddies and their buddies' buddies? I mean, I'm not as bad as my girlfriend's roommate. After watching the OSU/Michigan college baseball game on TV, she logged onto ESPN's Web site, checked the roster, searched Thefacebook, and "poked" the catcher because she thought he was hot. I mean, they study in Connecticut. That's trans-state stalking. I think that may even be a felony.

I, a poor NKU student, was just making up for lost time. But what started off as innocent fun soon spiraled into a full-time habit – it was an addiction.

Like iPods or alcohol, Thefacebook has become a favorite distracter of the modern college student. It's a reason to not study. Hell, it's a reason to not go to class – at least, as long as that cute girl next to you hasn't updated her profile. Facebook-mania has hit the streets. Don't blame me when you find yourself making and blaming groups. Don't blame me when you intentionally look up the favorite movie of the cute girl in your Algebra 099 class.

Blame Thefacebook, blame its creator Mark Zuckerberg, and blame yourself – because I have warned you. Besides, you can't point fingers at anyone. That's getting too far ahead – the first step in recovery is admitting you have a facebook problem. I would know. I've been a member of Thefacebook anonymous for two weeks.

For column's full length, visit www.thenortherner.com

campuscalendar

wednesday

• Last issue of The Northern for Spring Semester

thursday

• This semester's Feast for Finals will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. in Norse Commons and Norse Commons Circle.

• NKU Northern Choral, Chamber Choir, and Chamber Orchestra performance at 8 p.m. in Graves Hall. Admission is \$5 general /\$3 faculty, staff, students, seniors.

• Third annual Norsin' Around Bid Bash from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Regents Hall.

friday

• Last day of classes.

• National Arbor Day.

saturday

• NKU Music Preparatory Department: Beginning Strings, Prep Strings, and Concert Strings concert at 2 p.m. in Graves Hall.

• NKU Chamber Orchestra and NKU Youth Sinfonia at 4 p.m. in Graves Hall.

• NKU Community Chorus and Northern Kentucky Children's Ensemble Concert Choir, "Mass of the Children" at 8 p.m. in Graves Hall.

• Final Exams Begins

sunday

Study for finals.

monday

Final Exams

tuesday

Final Exams

To place an event contact Regan Coomer at 859-572-5859

Gospel Choir to release album

By KATRINA LIGHTHOUSE
Staff Writer
lighthousek@nku.edu

The Anointed Voices Gospel Choir of Northern Kentucky University is hitting the big time with a new CD expected to debut in two weeks.

The 25-member choir, under the direction of Jonathan Golden, went to a studio at Brown Mackie College to record their original piece entitled, "Lord You Are Holy."

"I am so proud of the album they are making an album they are a really inspirational force on campus," said junior Kenzie Marks.

Michelle Peterson founded The AV Gospel choir in 1993.

Along with their original piece, they recorded a remixed version of "Come All Ye Faithful." Their other piece, written by Golden, titled "I Don't Care."

Gregg Moore, the tenor section leader, feels that the AV gospel choir has played a big part in helping him remain spiritual while away from home in Providence, Ky.

"The Anointed Voices Gospel choir is what caught my attention when I got here. It is one of the reasons I chose to go to NKU," Moore said. "Since joining the choir, I have advanced both vocally and spiritually."

The CD is scheduled to be released during the second week of May.

Correction

In the April 20, 2005 article "Sorority celebrates its anniversary in style" (page 10), Serida Lowery was incorrectly named. The first miss Black and Gold was also incorrectly named; she was Nadine Hopkins.

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northern life

student presentations showcase creativity

By RICH SHIVENER
Staff Writer
shivener@nku.edu

Ranging from posters about traveling to Belize to sculptures in the middle of campus, work created by students debuted on campus April 18.

The fourth annual "Celebration of Student Research and Creativity" kicked off at Northern Kentucky University with the students setting up their artistic presentations in the Fine Arts building.

On April 19, Regents Hall was the gathering ground for most of the colleges on campus. Students from the theatre department provided entertainment just outside Regents Hall. The Musical Theatre Tour Troupe, which is made up of 12 NKU students, gave its audience a half-hour performance of songs from new and old musicals. The Dance Tour Troupe also performed, displaying several different styles of dance including hip-hop, ballet and modern.

At 1 p.m., students' projects opened for display. Students sponsored by the nursing, chemistry, biology, radio/television and several other departments all stood by their posters to explain the research they had done.

"I think that it's amazing that the university honors its students in such a way. The celebration makes us feel a part of NKU," said Travis Roth, a chemistry and graphic design junior.

Roth created a poster titled "Je Veux" that showed various pictures of the Caribbean. According to his abstract, Roth "was inspired to create this piece for FRE 481, The Caribbean Prison, a class that gave me insight and understanding of the past and the unique culture of the Caribbean islands."

At the end of the poster and interactive presentation session, guest speakers such as President James Votrubia and J. David Rogers spoke about the criteria for leadership and success at Regents Hall. When the guest speakers finished, students were delivered all day throughout campus. Students gave presentations sponsored by history, geography, mathematics, computer science, marketing and social work departments. The presentations included topics such as the

April and 21, oral presentations were delivered all day throughout campus. Students gave presentations sponsored by history, geography, mathematics, computer science, marketing and social work departments. The presentations included topics such as the

Civil War, the Tsunami tragedy and entrepreneur behavior.

April 20 was also the first day the Honors Program held a "Conference of Honors" in the Otto Brady Theatre. The conference was held the afternoon of April 20 and 21. Most of the students who presented their research were seniors nearing graduation.

April 21, Rose Hite, a nursing major and honor student, gave a presentation on self-mutilation at the conference. "I just want to raise awareness about self-mutilation and let people know it's a big problem in the United States," Hite said.

Tom Zaniello, director of the Honors Program, thought the team effort for creating the conference between the honors students and staff proved effective.

"We had our best student/faculty attendance probably ever. So we were extremely happy. We thought our presenters did a great job," Zaniello said.

April 22 was the final day of the celebration. Oral presentations sponsored by the information systems department were held in the early afternoon. It was also the last day that art students displayed their work for the celebration in the upper theatre lobby of the Fine Arts Building.

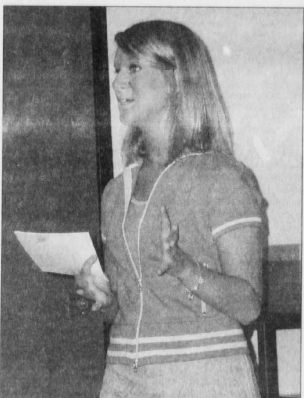
Nicki Mechlur, who studied abroad last semester, exhibited pictures she took while in London. Art students also created oil paintings and collages, some focusing on Edgar Allan Poe.

David Knight, manager of the art galleries in the fine arts building, was pleased with students who created the artistic displays as well as the celebration as a whole.

Rich Shivener / Photographer

Above: NKU's Dance Tour Troupe performs in front of Regents Hall Below: Julie Brown delivers a Political Science presentation.

Nicole Jones / Photo Editor



"We as faculty are busy throughout the whole year and we never really know what's going on in other departments," Knight said. "It's always nice to see what other students are doing."

The overall turnout of the celebration has increased every year. The celebration became a university-wide event, four years ago. More than 400 students were involved in creating almost 220 presentations this year.

Mark Santanello, a research,

grants and contacts specialist for NKU, helped coordinate the celebration and hopes that students become more comfortable at professional conferences after participating.

"We'd like to make sure students know how to present in front of people,"

Santanello said. "The celebration is not only to show (students) what the results of their creative project is. It's also to teach. Teaching is a big part of it."

Bash to reward involvement

By MATT MORRISON
Reporter
northernm@nku.edu

The time for Northern Kentucky University students to cash in their Thunderbushes is at hand as the annual Norsin' Around Bid Bash is right around the corner.

This year's Bid Bash will be April 28 in Regents Hall from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

At the bash, students have the opportunity to bid on prizes using the Thunderbushes they have accumulated throughout the year. Attaining these Thunderbushes wasn't difficult; in fact all it took was being involved in campus events.

"Students earned Thunderbushes by attending campus events and having their student IDs swiped at the Norsin' Around station," Student Involvement Director Betty Mulkey said. Each event was worth 50 Thunderbushes on a student ID card.

This is the third year the Bid Bash has taken place, and organizers anticipate the biggest turnout yet.

"We believe this year we

have even better prizes and feel we will have more students attending this year than ever before," student involvement specialist, Tiffany Stroer said.

The event, which is free to students, offers a wide variety of items for students to bid on. This year some of the prizes include gas, travel, electronics, DVD players, a wide variety of items for students to bid on. This year some of the prizes include gas, travel, electronics, DVD players, a wide variety of items for students to bid on.

"Students should come because they have the opportunity to win some really awesome prizes this year," Stroer said. "We are auctioning off a semester's tuition, book scholarships and a trip to Pigeon Forge among other great prizes."

Prizes are not the only reason to attend the Bid Bash, free food and drinks will also be provided for students.

"Last year, the Bid Bash was

great," said sophomore political science major Chet Purtilar. "It's the end of the year, the students are in a good mood and everyone is out to have a good time."

The Bid Bash encourages student involvement in campus events, which can sometimes be difficult in a mostly commuter school such as NKU.

"I love the concept of the Bid Bash," Purtilar said. "More student involvement is something which NKU needs in order to grow as a school, and the Bid Bash gives students an incentive to be involved."

Over the past decade, the university has seen a rise in enrollment as well as the development of more on-campus living. Yet for many students, the school is not seen in the same light as other more traditional colleges.

"I believe it is absolutely

essential for NKU to promote more student involvement, that would encourage more students to choose NKU when it comes time to pick which college to go to," Purtilar said.

More student involvement and the development of more student organizations along with the new student union and sports arena all help transform the image of NKU.

If students are unable to attend the Bid Bash, they can have someone bid in their place. However, they need to contact the Student Life Office no later than April 26, to let them know who will bid in the student's place.

"We would love for everyone to come out for the Bid Bash, however you do not even need to be at the event to place a winning bid on one of the great prizes," Stroer said.

To see how many Thunderbushes have been accumulated on a particular card this year, email norsinaround@nku.edu.

No cash bids will be accepted since this event is put on by Student Life to promote student involvement in campus events.

Architect's CD 'thinking man's metal'



Photos Contributed by Translation Loss Records
The Dayton-native band performs to promote their CD.

By CHAD SNOWDEN
Reporter
northerner@jnu.edu

For a successful debut record, there is a formula to ensure the best first impression. You want to give the full-scope of who you are and what you do musically, as well as the listener's interest by keeping your songs short, sweet and to the point. Dayton, Ohio's Mouth of the Architect broke those rules and walked away from the standard for their stellar 40-minute, four-song debut, "Time and Withering."

Mouth of the Architect's sound is akin to the metal underbelly of sludge-core. The orchestrated chaos invented by Neurosis and perfected by the band Isis is now in the hands of Mouth of the Architect, who has taken to the beast with sheer beauty and eloquence to move further into the depths of what is sometimes described as "thinking-man's metal."

"Time and Withering" starts with the epic "A Vivid Chaos," a song that spans 12 minutes and various climates of sonic bril-

liance. The chugging beginning gives way to a silence punctuated by a spurring riff that whirs in the chaos the title suggests. A beautiful single guitar, throwing the best guitar melody contained within the disc, then interrupts this chaos. But it's not alone for long when the rest of the band chimes in with a heart-wrenching slide guitar that pulls at the listener's ear ducts.

After the tear ducts are infiltrated, the song assaults the ears with a beautifully orchestrated, destructive ending. It was a bold move to place the CD's longest track at the head of the album, but Mouth of the Architect is drawing its own blue prints.

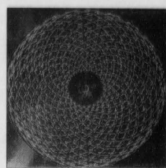
"Soil To Stone" starts clean and clear. The guitars are nicely delayed, the bass is thick and crunchy and the drums are precise and tonally perfect. This assortment carries in to a moody healthy pause where the bass clears the path to the rich landscape of a buildup to the song's core. Like Isis and Neurosis, Mouth of the Architect take a while to unfold the whole story. In "Soil To Stone," the 11-minute earthshaking answer to

the album's first track, Mouth of the Architect shows their most melodic points and presents them in an awe-inspiring abyss.

"Time and Withering's" shortest song, and yet still long by radio standards, is a ghostly, haunting selection that features the vocal styling of a growl and a scream. "Heart Eaters" comes in at just under five minutes, but strangely enough is the disc's most vocally heavy track. Instead of coming off like some run-of-the-mill metal-core bands, the doubled vocal comes off more calculated and both voices lend themselves to each other quite nicely.

The conclusion to Mouth of the Architect's debut is the 11-minute "The Worm."

Castle-acoustic piano begins this masterpiece with feedback wails and gently placed guitar. The lead-up to the album's final jam out is nothing short of beautiful. Once the drums and bass kick in, a side of Mouth of the Architect is revealed. They are not afraid to kill you with kindness as opposed to nuclear warheads of distorted catharsis. However, they still come



"Time and Withering" by Mouth of the Architect

off very cathartic. It is a more calculated, well-executed drain of emotions that lends itself to brutal music, sans the distorted mayhem.

As the song works itself into the culmination of crunchy guitars, crisp bass and drums, it's evident that Mouth of the Architect was destined to out grow their native city of Dayton. With the last note as sweet as the first, "Time and Withering" is a triumphant debut for Mouth of the Architect, and one could only wonder how many other sides the band could display with their follow-up.

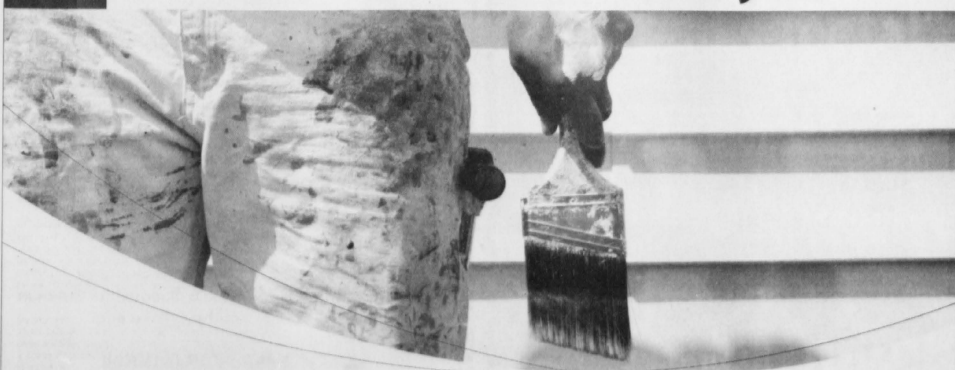


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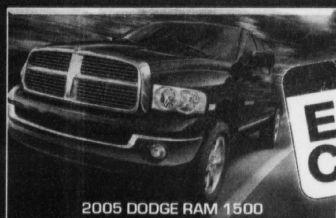
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Flies in the Pine Tar

Why I dislike NASCAR

I know that I'm going to anger some folks with the last "Flies in the Pinetar" of the semester, but hey, this is all in good fun - remember that. I've laid off of NASCAR until now because, well, I don't have a "Aint Skeered" sticker in my car window, so I must be a bit afraid to attack the country's fastest growing outdoor "sport." But, I still can't really consider NASCAR a sport because no athletic skills are being showcased: Push pedals, turn wheel.

As a matter of fact, I don't know what NASCAR is. I just know that I want it out of sports television. Do you think that if you tied a monkey's arm to the steering wheel and trained him to turn left that he could have consistent top ten finishes? Maybe not, the monkey would probably get bonked. I've often enjoyed imagining that during a driver's first lap he notices a pretty girl in the stands and say to himself, "Shoo-wee, she's purdy," and hanks his Dukes of Hazzard horn. Then, he completes his first oval and comes to the same spot again, forgets, notices the girl and says, "Shoo-wee, she's purdy" and continues that kind of witty inner-dialogue another 250 times during that afternoon.

I'm not saying that NASCAR is bad, it's just not something I ever want to hear about or see. Kind of like darts on television. Or pool. Or bowling. Or hunting. Or poker (although I love it - still not an athletic feat). These kinds of things need their own network. Let's call it the "Boredom Network" - your satisfying alternative to entertainment!

I know, I know, baseball is unbearably boring to many people, and it helps to understand the nuances of the sport or anything that you intend to criticize, but since when has sports journalism been about deeper understanding? I'm just trying to fit in.

I guess if you're a mechanic or something, watching the pit crews might be pretty interesting, but I usually just read a magazine when I'm at the fifty Lube. (Gotta catch up on the latest with Angelina, Brad and poor Jen... alas.)

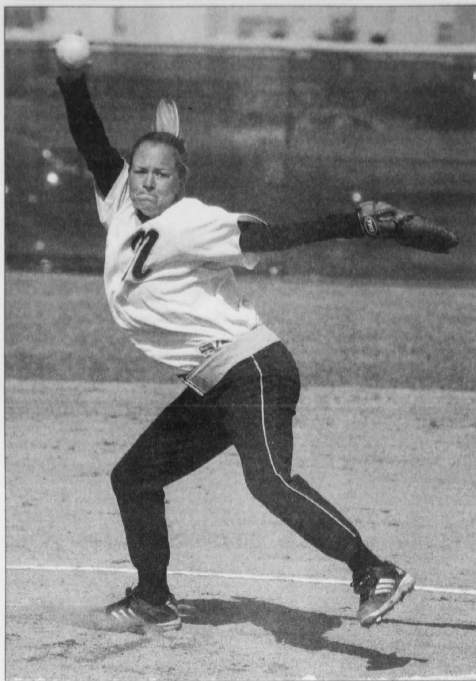
Maybe being at the track has some sort of Zen-like visceral gifts to shower upon the observer that I'm just not getting on my Sportscenter highlights. Maybe all of that drafting and "swapping point" has its place in the pantheon of cultural awareness that I'll never quite understand.

But, until enlightenment hits me, I'm going to have to place NASCAR up there with professional snuff on television as one of my least favorite pastimes.

I know how to spice it up a bit: have the drivers cut a big hole in the floorboards and pick up their cars and run around the track Fred Flintstone style - now that would be fun to watch.

Matthew Daniels is the Assistant Sports Editor for The Northerner. You can e-mail him at matthewdaniels@fuse.net

LADY NORSE SEE 40TH CONSECUTIVE WIN



Blue I Photographer

Pitcher Krystal Lewallen struck out 10 batters in the Norse's battle for their 40th consecutive win.

Softball team ties national record

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. - The Northern Kentucky University softball team tied an NCAA Division II record April 21 by winning its 40th consecutive game with a 6-2 victory over Indianapolis to complete a sweep of the doubleheader.

The 40 consecutive wins allowed NKU (40-0) to tie the record set by Kennesaw State in 1995. The Norse, ranked No. 1 nationally in the NCAA Division II poll, took the opening game by a 5-1 score as Krystal Lewallen tossed a four-hitter and struck out 10 batters.

Ricki Rothbauer went 2-for-4 with two runs batted in to key the NKU offense in the opener. The Norse scored three runs in the third inning to take a 3-0 lead and coasted to the victory.

In the nightcap, NKU rallied from a 2-1 deficit to post its record-tying victory by a 6-2 score. After Indianapolis had taken a 2-1 lead in the top of the third inning, freshman Sarah King belted a long home run over the wall in center field to tie the game at 2-2.

The Norse plated four runs in the fourth inning to take a 6-2 lead. Angie Lindeman's two-run single keyed the Norse's fourth-inning outburst.

Lewallen relieved starting pitcher Emily Breitholtz in the third inning and did not allow a hit the remainder of the game to pick up her second win of the day. Lewallen, a junior from Crestwood, Ky., improved to

21-0 with the two victories. She finished with six strikeouts in the second game.

Rothbauer went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and an RBI for the Norse. Rothbauer is now batting .439 and leads NKU with 40 runs scored.

Stephanie Leimbach also added two hits in the nightcap and extended her hitting streak to 20 straight games. Leimbach is hitting .396 this spring and has scored 36 runs.

NKU improved to 12-0 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The Norse can set the record on April 27th when they play Ashland University.

**Article by Sports Information*

Norse baseball splits weekend series



Blue I Photographer

Pitcher Derrick Moves allowed just one unearned run in his start April 23 against Kentucky Wesleyan.

OWENSBORO, Ky. - The Northern Kentucky University baseball team lost a pair of one-run games at Kentucky Wesleyan April 23, dropping a 1-0 verdict in the opener and a 6-5 decision in the nightcap.

In the opener, Kentucky Wesleyan's Brandon Brooks tossed a two-hit shutout and struck out nine batters to outduel NKU pitching ace Derrick Moves. Moves, the Norse's junior right-hander, scattered five hits and allowed just one unearned run in six innings.

The only run came as a result of a passed ball in the fourth inning. Tyson Martin led off with a single and advanced to second on an error. After going to third base on John Grant's sacrifice bunt, Martin scored on the passed ball.

Kentucky Wesleyan left fielder Paul Richardson gunned down NKU's Keith Jackson at home plate for the final out of the game in the nightcap to preserve the Panthers' 6-5 win. Jackson attempted to score from second base on Alex Frank's single with two outs in the ninth inning, but Richardson's throw to catcher

Chris Webb was in time to cut down Jackson at the plate and end the game.

Jackson went 3-for-4 with two runs batted in to lead NKU, which dropped to 23-19 overall, 15-9 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Frank was 2-for-4 at the plate, while Matt Wagers and Kory Loneragan each added two hits for the Norse.

Richardson went 4-for-5 with two RBIs to pace Kentucky Wesleyan, which improved to 19-21 overall, 15-13 in the GLVC. The Panthers built a 6-2 lead after six innings, but NKU rallied for three runs in the seventh to pull within 6-5.

Jackson and Wagers each hit RBIs doubles to spark the three-run seventh for NKU.

In the doubleheader April 24, Kevin Quick, Rick Wood and Steve Thomas combined for a one-hit shutout in the first game as the NKU baseball team posted a 2-0 win over Kentucky Wesleyan.

Matt Wagers went 3-for-3 with a run-scoring double for NKU, which bounced back from two losses April 23 to salvage a split

of the four-game series with Kentucky Wesleyan. The Norse improved to 25-19 overall, 17-9 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Quick, a freshman right-hander, allowed just a fourth-inning single in the first game and improved to 3-2 this spring. Wood pitched an inning of hitless baseball for the Norse, and Thomas came in the seventh to record the save.

Josh Moulton had a triple and scored a run for NKU in the opener.

In the nightcap, NKU completed the sweep with a 6-2 victory. Wagers and Matt Jones each picked up two RBIs to lead the Norse. Jason Nintup went 2-for-4 with an RBI.

Mark Bogenschutz (1-0) pitched six innings and recorded the win for the Norse. Paul Davis pitched three innings and struck out three in the seventh and went three scoreless innings.

The Norse will resume GLVC play April 30 with a doubleheader at Quincy.

**Article by Sports Information*

Smith goes first in draft

2005 picks show surprises, help teams improve roster

By SAM McCLANAHAN
 Reporter
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With the 2005 NFL Draft in the books, it is now time to look back and examine the selections that were made, determine the winners and the losers, and look back at the picks that made us scratch our heads.

Going into the draft April 23, only one thing seemed for certain. It was a no-brainer that the San Francisco 49ers were going to draft a quarterback to try lead them back into the playoffs, but nobody was sure which quarterback the 49ers were going to take.

The two prized players to choose from were Alex Smith from Utah, and Aaron Rodgers from the University of California. Both players at some point in the last several weeks have been projected to be the number one pick, and when the 49ers decided to select Smith with the number one pick, it was only supposed to be a matter of time before Rodgers was taken, right?

That was not the case, in the blink of an eye, Rodgers slipped out of the top ten, then the top twenty, before finally landing at number 24 with the Green Bay Packers. Rodgers was accepted with raucous cheers from the New York draft crowd, and he already knows what his role will be with the Packers. With future hall-of-famer Brett Favre, who turns 36 in October, on the brink of retirement, Rodgers role in the NFL will be none other than to try and follow in Favre's gigantic footsteps.

The remainder of the first round was fairly predictable, with the Auburn Tigers being represented very well. Auburn running back Ronnie Brown was taken second by Miami, followed by fellow teammate Carnell Williams being taken fifth by Tampa Bay and former Tiger cornerback Carlos Rogers being selected by Washington with the ninth pick. Besides the freefall of Aaron Rodgers, the other talk of the draft was the strange selection made by the Detroit Lions. Already having a good young core of wide receivers in Roy Williams and Charles Williams, the Lions with the tenth pick selected USC wide receiver Mike Williams.

Now under any other circumstance, this would be considered a smart choice. Williams is an exceptional athlete, with great size and power, but he is not what Detroit needed. With many glaring holes in their defense, and a weak offensive line to protect quarterback Joey Harrington, the Lions gave themselves a luxury in Williams, and did not fill any obvious weakness. This blunder pick will probably be talked about for years to come, unless Detroit has a deal in the works to get rid of one of their receivers.

Closer to home, going into the draft it was pretty clear that the Bengals were going to use their first round pick to select a defensive player. Many mock drafts had Cincinnati taking Wisconsin defensive end Erasmus James with the 17th pick. But the Bengals decided to take a more versatile player in David Pollack. Pollack, a star defensive end at Georgia, first caught the eye of head coach Marvin Lewis two years ago when Lewis was scouting another Georgia player.

Pollack, who is 6'2" and 262 lbs., is too small to be a DE in the NFL, and will likely be converted into a middle line-backer. In the second round of the draft, the Bengals then selected Pollack's teammate, inside linebacker Odell Thurman.

In the third round, Cincinnati selected 6'4" 197 pound Chris Henry, a wide receiver from Virginia. When the draft resumed on Sunday, the Bengals selected two Central Michigan offensive linemen in Eric Ghiaucue and Adam Kieft. UCLA wide receiver Pat Perry, and finally Utah Defensive End Jonathan Fanene.

Overall, the Bengals did well. They were able to address some of their needs in defense, which they did in taking Pollack and Thurman, who will be expected to contribute right away. And they were also able to select two more young explosive wide receivers and two offensive tackles.

Time will only tell if these players can live up to their billings, but all Bengal fans can sit back and be satisfied that Marvin Lewis and his draft team were able to select good players who are all capable of bright futures.

hotseat



→ with John Rasp

In this week's Hot Seat, John interviews NKU softball head coach Kathy Stewart.

John Rasp: Is there more pressure on your team if you host the regional for the second year after already winning it last year?

Kathy Stewart: I personally don't feel pressure. The girls are pretty psyched up for any game we are playing. Actually, I think we will feel more comfortable playing at home.

JR: When you have such a good record, how hard is it to find opponents to play?

KS: Very hard. I went through it when the GLVC/GIAC tournament got cancelled. I'm going through it now.

JR: Out of you and assistant Chip Gregg, which one would most likely get a hit off of Krystal Lewallen?

KS: Chip because he practices more on hitting than I do.

JR: If you were to get tossed

from a game, what would you be most worried about with Chip taking over?

KS: Chip calling out what he wants his batters to do instead of actually giving signs. Apparently, in the fall, that is what he did when I had to leave during a fall tournament. He didn't know the signs, so he screamed out what they should do.

JR: Do you have any superstitions as a coach?

KS: Not really. I guess the fact that I fill out the lineup card and the scoreheet before every game. I guess that's a superstition.

JR: I know with Illinois' men's basketball team, everyone said that they should lose a game before going into the tournament. Do you feel that as a coach being 40-0?

KS: To think that we could go

undefeated is a scary thought. If we do lose, hopefully it is because that team is better than us on that particular day and we left it all on the field.

JR: How has softball changed since you were a student at NKU and now?

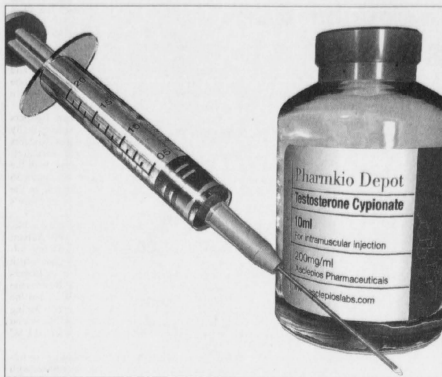
KS: It's always been competitive, but I think the game is faster. Also, for part of the time that I was here it was slow pitch. The pitching now is outstanding and I think the hitting has caught up with some of the pitching.

JR: Which one of your pitchers would you most likely get a hit off of?

KS: Probably none of them. The last time I swung a bat against a fast pitch pitcher is when I coached at Fairfield in 1992.



Blue I Photographer
Softball head coach Kathy Stewart has guided the softball team to an undefeated record so far this season.



KRT Campus

High school athletes may face steroid testing because of recent Major League Baseball speculations.

Major league steroid use could affect student athletes

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It is a growing problem that has had a lot of attention in the news lately, and now steroid testing could make its way to the high school ranks.

With many professional athletes such as Barry Bonds and Sammy Sosa being accused of taking the illegal substances, many state lawmakers are now proposing the idea of testing high school athletes in an attempt to stop the problem before it ever starts.

In a 2003 survey of athletic directors by the National Federation of State High School Associations, it was discovered that less than 4 percent of the nation's high schools enforce steroid testing. Florida State Rep. Marcelo Llorente proposed a bill

that would create a national steroid testing program for high school athletes. Llorente's bill, as well as a similar one proposed by the Senate, would create a groundbreaking program that would test high school athletes in a groundbreak decision on by that school's athletic program. The bill would also require high schools to enforce anti-steroid policies. The proposed bill, if passed, would go into effect in the 2006-07 school year.

Llorente's proposed bill is getting support from lawmakers in Minnesota, Michigan and Texas. Texas is also considering doing steroid testing during playoff competition as well as regular season play. Harsh punishments are also now being handed down to those who supply athletes with performance enhancing drugs. In Minnesota, anyone caught supplying an athlete with steroids could face up to 20 years in

prison and be fined up to \$250,000.

The negative effects of steroids have been well documented in the past. Steroid use has been known to stunt growth in teenagers, cause severe acne, and possibly lead to heart problems and cancer. Just this past October, former National League MVP Ken Caminiti died from a heart attack that was linked to his past steroid use, a glaring example of athletes who play with fire and get burned.

Adopting strong penalties and enforcing strict steroid policies are steps in the right direction in trying to deal with this growing problem. Setting examples at the high school level and educating young athletes about the dangers of steroids is going to be an important battle in many years to come.

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